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CHARLOE

"A VILLAGE BY A STREAM"

A Pictorial History

In Memory Of
The Last Indian Chief
In Northwestern Ohio

#602

CHARLOE

In Memory of

CHARLOE PETER

Last Indian Chief of the

Oquanoxas Reservation before

1820

BROWN TOWNSHIP

PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO

— From An Old Print —
— THEY TRAVELED TOWARD THE SETTING SUN —

PROGRAM

MAY 27, 1962

2:00 P.M. (EST)

Music

Oakwood High School Band

Invocation

PRESENTATION OF MARKER
Mr. Otto E. Ehrhart, Antwerp, Ohio

FLAG RAISING CEREMONIES
V.F.W. Post 587 Paulding, Ohio

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG
Boy Scouts Oakwood, Ohio

STAR SPANGLED BANNER
Miss Mildred Shisler
Oakwood High School Band

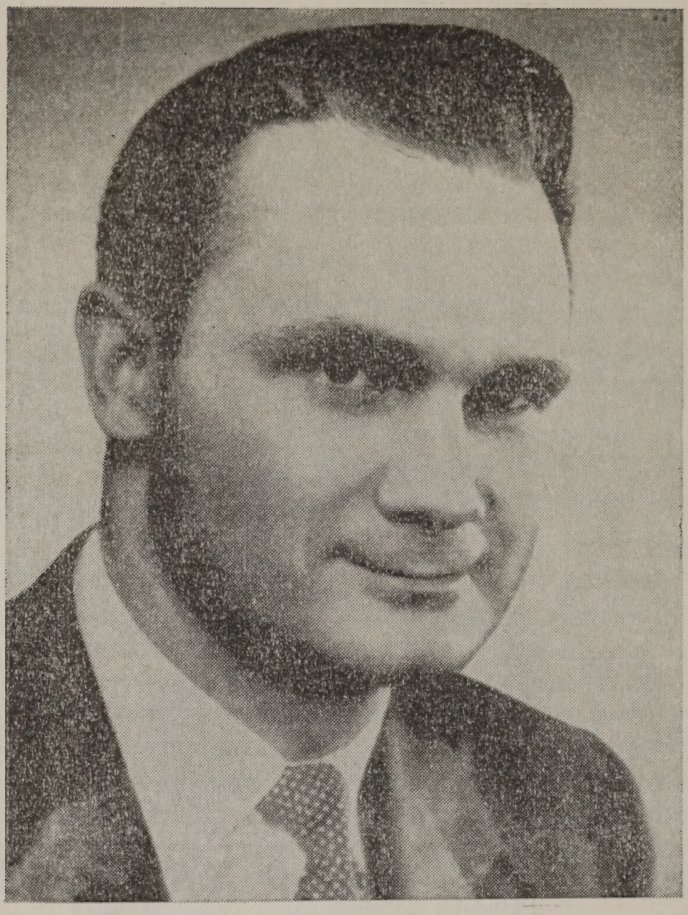
Greetings
Carson Eakins, Charloe, Ohio

Poem
Village By A Stream
Douglas Mead

Remarks
Paulding County State Representative
Delbert Jeffery

DEDICATORY ADDRESS
Honorable Delbert L. Latta
Representative to Congress, Fifth District

SONG
God Bless America
Miss Mildred Shisler, Oakwood, Ohio
Oakwood High School Band



DELBERT L. LATTA

DELBERT L. LATTA, Republican, of Bowling Green, Ohio; born in Weston, Wood County, Ohio, March 5, 1920; attended North Baltimore, Ohio, and McComb, Ohio, public schools; graduate of McComb (Ohio) High School; A. B. and LL. B. degrees from Ohio Northern University; attorney; represented nine northwestern Ohio counties in the Ohio Senate for three terms; married to the former Rose Mary Kiene, of Pandora, Putnam County, Ohio; two children, Rose Ellen and Robert Edward; elected to the 86th Congress on November 4, 1958; reelected to the 87th Congress; member of House Agriculture Committee; member of the following subcommittees: Livestock and Feed Grains; Tobacco; Equipment Supplies and Manpower; Family Farms; Wheat; appointed to a Select Committee on Export Controls.

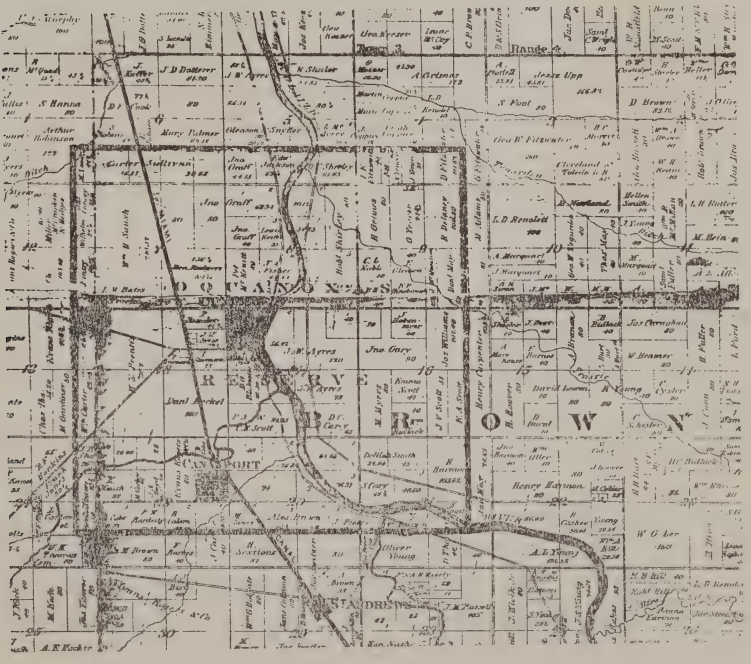
OQUANOXA RESERVE

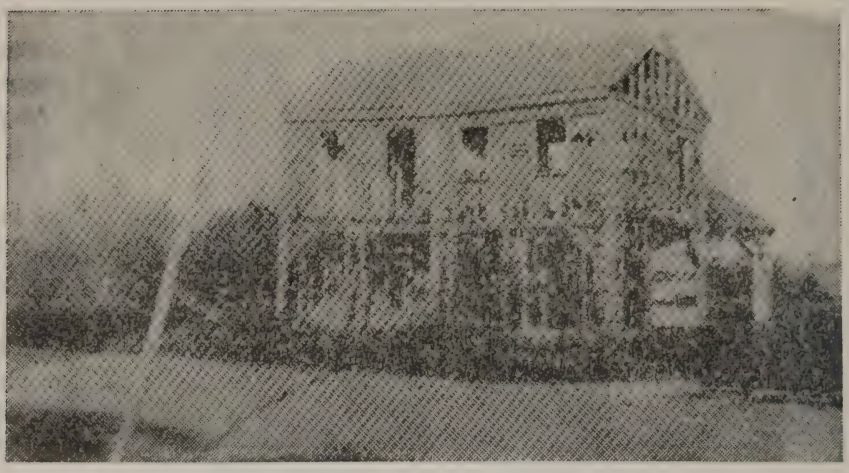
In the forepart of the eighteenth century the location of Charloe was known as the Oquanoxa Reserve. It consisted of about twenty five hundred acres of land. This reserve was located along the Auglaize River in what is now Brown Township, Paulding County, Ohio. It was named after one of their early chiefs, Occonnoxee.

In 1820 they sold their Reserve to the Government and turned west toward the setting sun. These Indians were mostly of the Ottawa tribe. Not all of them left at the same time. A number of straggling groups of Indians were in the county up to the latter part of the 40's. One of these groups remained around Charloe. Their chief was Charloe Peter. Their burial ground was located in the north part of the village. Many Indian relics were found here in earlier days. Along in the 1840's a law was passed that these scattered groups must become civilized Americans or go west. They chose the latter.

In 1842 they removed their place of abode to the far west settling near the mouth of the Kansas River.

Everett A. Budd History of Paulding County.
Historical Atlas of 1892. Chapter I pp 13-14.





— Remnants Of The First Court House —

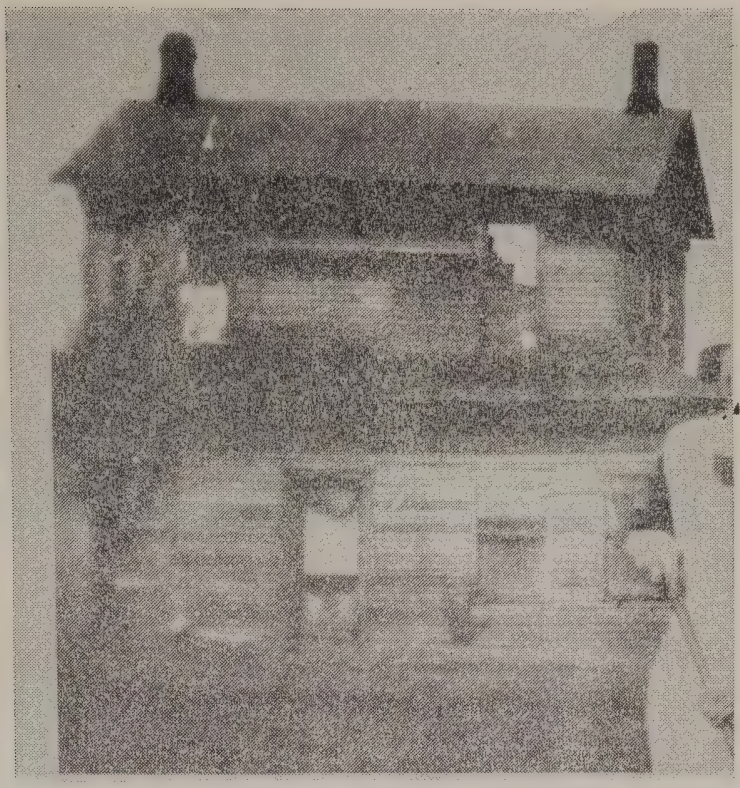
CHARLOE COURT HOUSE

The village of Charloe took its name from the Ottawa chieftain and it grew from near the center of the Reserve on the banks of the Auglaize River. The village was platted by Benjamin F. Hollister in 1840. He agreed to erect a court house at his own expense if the county seat should locate there. The county seat was removed from New Rochester to Charloe and the county business transferred in 1841.

The court house, a two story building 30x40 feet, was built of brick on a good solid stone foundation at a cost of $10,000. There were six rooms in the lower story, three on each side of a hall, extending east and west through the building, used for county offices. The court room was on the second floor and was richly finished in black walnut and furnished with the same material.

The building was presented to the commissioners on the condition that it should be the property of the county as long as the county seat remained at Charloe. In 1851, the county seat was moved to Paulding. Thus the empty building fell back to its original owner or to his heirs. Mr. Hollister being dead, his legal heirs being already wealthy, considered it a useless piece of property.

The vacant building became everybody's building and used a number of years for schools, churches, election halls and public gatherings of all kinds. Year after year it hastened to decay. The roof had fallen in and its once gracious stairway tumbled down. The fallen brick crumbled to dust leaving only the frame standing as a memorial to Paulding County's first court house.



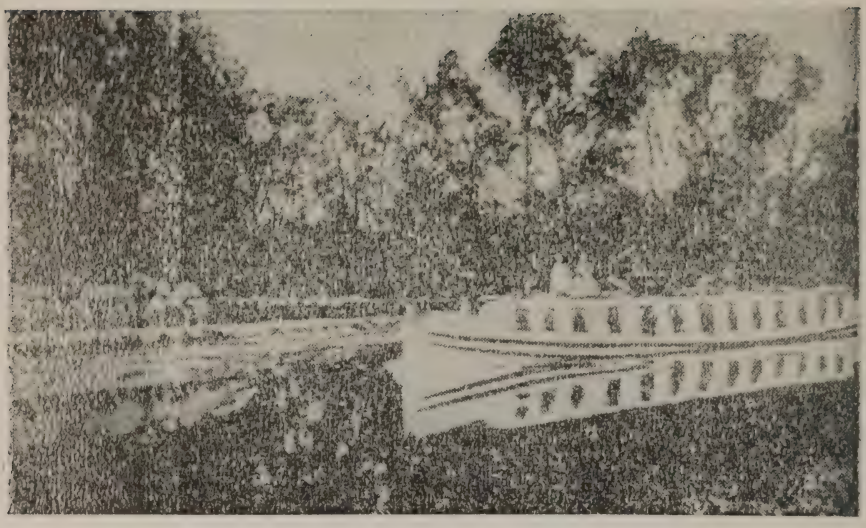
— Coffee Mill House —

COFFEE MILL HOUSE

A few years later Dwight Blakeslee built a house north of the saw mill. It was known by all the old settlers as the "Coffee Mill House" because of its design. The second story was much smaller then the first. A lower roof extended completely around the second story. It consisted of five rooms down and two up. Also a closet on each floor and a large hallway extended from the door in the front center to the upstairs. In 1910 Daniel Weller moved into the Old Coffee Mill House and opened a General Store in the right front room. The picture was taken in 1925 before it was tore down by its owner.

Joe Campbell was the last person to open a Grocery Store in the Old Store Building on Grape Street in early 1920 - 1922. John W. Ayers had the Post Office from 1869 to 1876, in the same building.

Excerpt from Coy A. Weller's Notes



— A Packet Boat On The Miami-Erie Canal —

MIAMI AND ERIE CANAL

The Miami and Erie Canal added greatly to the prosperity of Charloe and community. Final plans were made to extend the canal from Dayton to Toledo on Lake Erie. This course passed through Dulphus, Mandale, Newberg, Melrose, Charloe and joined the Wabash canal at Junction in 1845. This opened transportation from Cincinnati to Toledo and Lake Erie, a distance of 242 miles. The first boat from Cincinnati passed through Charloe and arrived in Toledo on June 27, 1845.

Boats on the canal were propelled by horses and mules by means of large ropes. They traveled upon the towpath along the canal. Many locks and aqueducts had to be built. One of the locks was built about one and a half mile north of Charloe. These boats conveyed freight, grain, lumber, livestock and every other commercial commodity.

A daily line of packets was established for the conveyance of passengers and the U.S. mail. These packets were drawn by three horses driven on a brisk trot on a towpath and changed at relays every six miles. The schedule of these boats were about six miles per hour.

Wagon roads were built over the canal with high bridges so a boat could pass under. Turn table bridges were also built to swing to one side of the canal to let a boat pass. The Miami and Erie canal crossed Grape Street which is now the Charloe Trail. Originally high bridge was built to passover the canal. Later a swinging bridge was built to replace.

The most beautiful aqueduct along the canal was between Charloe and Canal Port. The aqueduct a mile south of Charloe carried the canal over Blue Creek.

Excerpts from Coy Weller notes and
Everrett A. Budd's History of Paulding County

— Aqueduct On The Canal —

— The First School —

SCHOOL AND CHURCHES

The first school at Charloe was taught by John D. Carlton in 1834 in an unoccupied cabin on the farm later owned by D. C. Carey. The first schoolhouse was erected in Charloe in 1835. It was a log cabin 20x24 feet in size. It was replaced by a new one story building. After a number of years it became two small and run down. A two story building was built. The old one was used for church services known as the Old Advent Church. The one building was the original two story building cut down in about 1910 and used until school was consolidated into the Oakwood District.

The first Sabbath School in the township was organized at Charloe by C. B. West in 1841. It was known as Charloe's Union Sunday School. It was the oldest and first in Paulding County.

About 1908 or 1909 the Methodists in and around Charloe purchased a Church building in the village of Blue Creek, a few miles south-west of Charloe, and moved it to Charloe, for their church. It was there for many years. A few years ago the Methodist Church building was sold to the Grange who still use it today. They have remodeled it, also removed the high belfry and bell.

— The School House In Later Years —

STONE QUARRY

An Extension quarry at Canal Port, one mile south of Charloe, was operated by Honorable C. L. Noble between the years of 1855-1860. Also a stone mill used for sawing stone was connected by a tramway. This was known as the Stone Dock Farm.

THE CHARLOE POST OFFICE

On November 18, 1840, the Post Office Department in Washington D.C. transferred the Post Office from Fort Brown to Charloe. The Post Office remained in Charloe 64 years. During that time twenty-two men and one woman were appointed to the Postmaster's job. The Post Office was usually located in some store building.

On February 28, 1905, the Post Office Department in Washington, D.C. discontinued the Post Office in Charloe.

Submitted by Coy A. Weller from National Archives and Records Service Washington, D.C. March 8, 1962

— Early Store And Postoffice —

HOME OF LEROY FORNEY

In the early 60's Charloe was prosperous shipping timber grain and livestock to market. Besides the beautiful Court House and Churches, the town had a large hotel and several store buildings, one of them including a Post Office.

In 1892 LeRoy J. Forney had a store along with the Post Office. His home was the next building east of the Post Office. Standing in the center of the picture are Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy J. Forney and their son Hector. The sign "Post Office" can be seen on the front of the store building. Mr. Forney held the Postmaster for eleven years which was the longest of any one else in Charloe.

— Blacksmith And Hoop Shop —

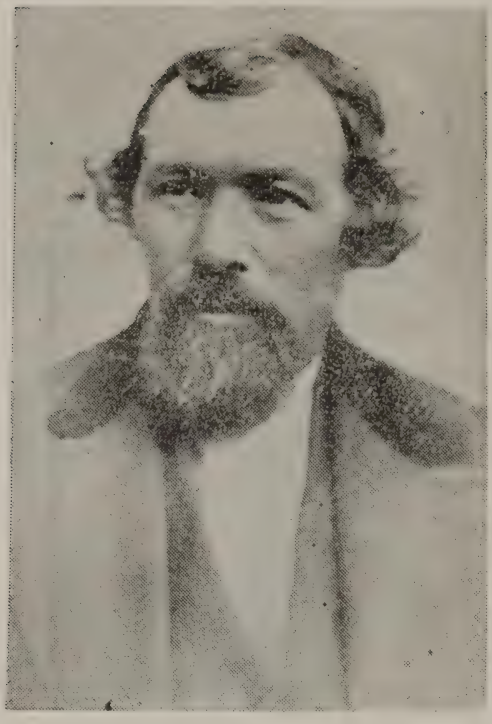
EARLY SETTLERS

One of the early settlers to settle in Brown Township along the Auglaize River were the Shirley's. In 1823 Nathan Shirley and his family moved up the river on the east bank of the Auglaize across from Charloe. His brother Judge Robert Shirley located there in the same season. Other early pioneers to locate in or near Charloe were Thomas Ronine in 1825, others - John W. Ayers, G. H. Phillips, John Taylor, A. H. Palmer, and the Hankins and Kingery families.

They raised corn on the river bottom. The forest supplied them with meat, deer and wild turkys, squirrel and grouse. These early settlers had to depend on streams to get their provisions and necessities of life.

The early settlers associated with the Indians who were of a friendly nature except when under the influence of

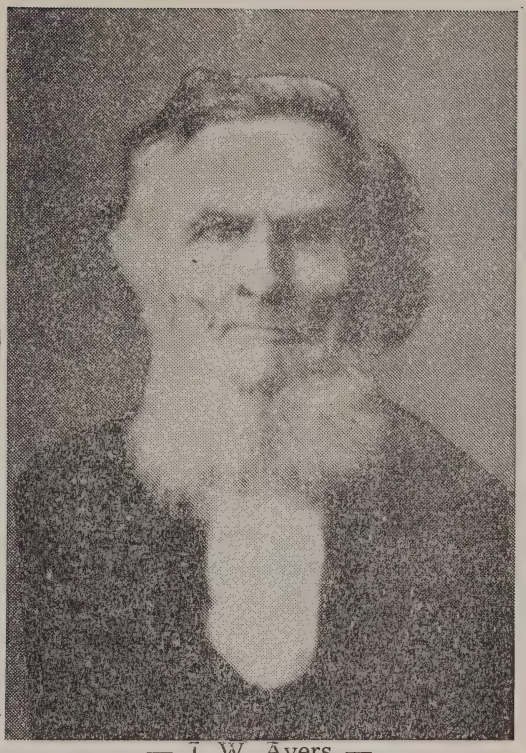
Everett A. Budd History of Paulding County.
Historical Atlas of 1892. Chapter I pp 16-17.



— William (Billy) Sherman —

BILLY SHERMAN

William (Billy) Sherman was another early pioneer of Charloe. He was a Blacksmith by trade. His Blacksmith and Hoop Shop was on the east side of the river across from Charloe. At this date, 1962, the remnants of the Shop and Hoop Mill are still there. It was operated by William Sherman Sr. and brother, George Sherman, and Carey Closson. Later it was operated by his son, William Jr.



— J. W. Ayers —

J. W. AYERS

J. W. Ayers was one of the early pioneers at Charloe. He was an attorney and served as Prosecuting Attorney when the County seat was in Charloe. When the County seat was removed to Paulding, he moved to Paulding and continued his practice. Later he moved back to Charloe and entered into the Merchantile business. He was Postmaster at Charloe three times. His home was a brick house just across the river from Charloe, the first house left from the bridge. At this date the property is now owned by the Hutchinson family.

In the year 1839 Charloe was layed out into a town. The work being certified by H. Sessions, Benj F. Hollister, Proprietor, John Hudson. Toen Director, and Miller Arrowsmith, County Surveyor of Williams County. Notes and certificates as to the Platt of Charloe were recorded on June 20, 1839, as the County seat of Paulding County even though the County offices were in New Rochester.

The State of Ohio Williams County

Personally appeared before me the subscribed, Benjamin F. Hollister, Proprietor of the within Town Plat and John Hudson, the Director of the said within described Town of Charloe the County Seat of Paulding County and Severally acknowledged said Plat together with the notes and references thereunto, attached.

to be their free and voluntary act and Deed.

In Testimony of which, I hereunto set my hand seal this 20th day of June A. D. 1839.

Signed Sidney S. Sprague
Justice of Peace for the afore said County.

as copied by: Coy A. Weller

Horatis N. Curtis, Recorder

State of Ohio Williams County

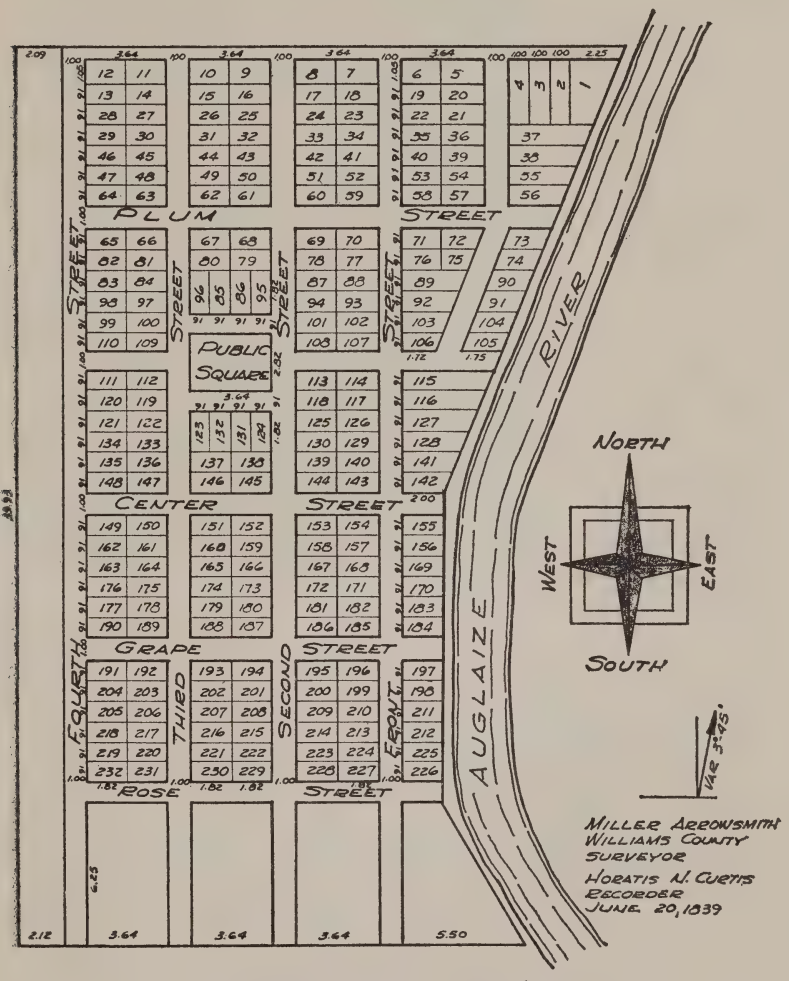
I, Miller Arrowsmith, County Surveyor of Said County do hereby Certify that the Plat and survey of the Town of Charloe is correct June 14, 1839.

as copied by: Coy A. Weller

Signed Miller Arrowsmith
Co. S. Wm. Co. Ohio

PLAT OF CHARLOE, PAULDING CO. OHIO

SITUATED IN SECTION 17, TOWNSHIP 2 NORTH - RANGE 4 EAST



CHARLOE, OHIO

1839

DRAWN BY
D.T. BONE, MAY 1937

COMPLIMENTS OF,
COY A. WELLER

Certificate of Vacation of lots in Village of Charloe
STATE OF OHIO PAULDING COUNTY S.S.

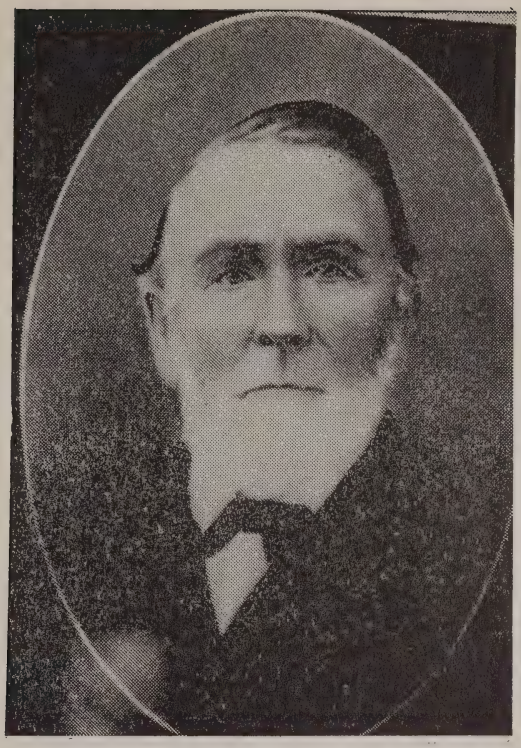
Auditors Office
Paulding County, Ohio
November 14, 1914

To
M. T.J. Tabler. et. al. Petioners.

I, Edward McGaharan, Auditor of Paulding County, Ohio do hereby Certify that under Section 3601, 3602 and 3603 of the General Code of Ohio, Lots numbered one (1) to two hundred thirty two (232) inclusive as platted and numbered on the Original plat of the Village of Charloe Paulding County, Ohio and all Streets and alleys abutting there on have been duly vacated.

Edward McGaharan,
County Auditor

Auditors Office
Paulding, County Ohio.
Filed December 7, 1914, 1:50 p.m.
Recorded December 7, 1914
W. E. Thompson, Recorder of Paulding County. Ohio



— Dwight Blakeslee —

DWIGHT BLAKESLEE

Dwight G. Blakeslee was born in Geauga County in 1821. He taught school for two years in Kentucky; later he served as Principal of Schools at Maumee. In 1850, he came to Charloe and in 1852 he built the first steam-powered Saw Mill in Paulding County. It was an upright saw which he operated for many years.

In 1858 he was married to Miss Harriet Allen. They were the parents of three children; one died in infancy, a son, Allen, was a teacher; and daughter, Flora, was a teacher of music.

Dwight Blakeslee was active in the community in and around Charloe. Along with his Sawmill he also operated a hand ferry at that time there was no bridge across the Auglaize River at Charloe. This ferry was in the rear of his Saw Mill, and he operated it free of charge. If any one wanted to cross the river, they would holler "Over - Over" and Mr. Blakeslee would bring them across in a boat.

During the Civil War, he built the house on the banks of the river at Charloe, known by the old pioneers as the Coffee Mill House. It was torn down in the middle twenties.

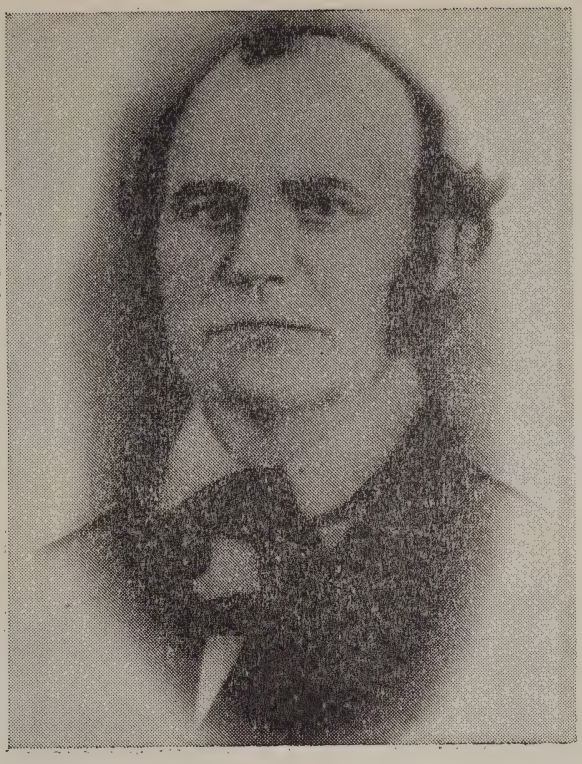
He was active until 1892 when he was stricken with paralysis, he passed away in 1901. His home now is the property of his granddaughter, Dorothy Blakeslee.

STEAM-POWERED SAW MILL

The County's first steam-powered saw mill located in Charloe in 1852. It was an upright saw owned and operated by Dwight G. Blakeslee.

SHIRLEY

The Shirleys were among the first settlers at Charloe. Robert Shirley Sr. came from Ross County, Ohio, to Defiance in 1821 with his family and located in one of the old Block Homes at Ft. Winchester. Ft. Winchester was located about 200 yards south of Ft. Defiance; at that time it was still in good condition. At that time there were no roads through this wilderness, just Indian trails; these, no doubt were the old Anthony Wayne trails, cut by him during the latter part of the 17th century and later used by the Indians. It took the Shirleys three weeks to come from Ross County to Defiance in a Covered Wagon, one had to go ahead of the team with an ox to clean the old trail of brush and fallen timbers to get through with their cattle and covered wagons. At the time, when they arrived at Defiance, there was an old Trading Post just outside of Ft. Winchester, where the Indians from around Charloe would come, and exchange their Coon skins, Otters, Beavers and Deer hides also Honey,Beeswax, Gingseng and Wild Berries for provisions and Calico, the louder the colors the better it pleased them. Becoming acquainted with the Indians, who were of a friendly nature, and the land of the old Indian Reservation was available to white men. During the early thirties they moved up the Auglaize river across from Charloe where he took up some land from the Government and built a Log Cabin for his family. Later, about 1840, he built a large two story brick building, the bricks being hand-made from clay at the rear of his farm. They were the parents of six children. His son, John Shirley Jr., was Sheriff of Paulding County for a number of years.
PAGE 3



— Robert Shirley —

SCENIC LANDMARKS

Before we close this history of Charloe, we must pay tribute to some of its scenic land-marks provided by nature itself as each becomes more beautiful with the passing of years.

Old timers may recall the following scene. It is the Old Covered Bridge across the Auglaize river at Charloe, which takes us back into history some few years. The bridge was known as the Old Red Bridge because it was painted red. It was torn down in 1901 and replaced by the present steel structure.

— Old Red Covered Bridge —

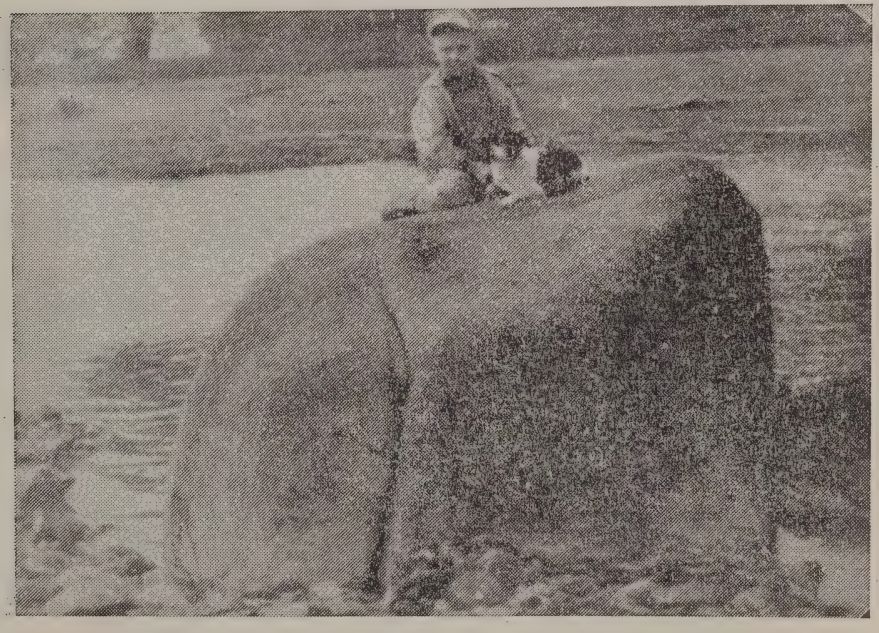
— Built In 1901 To Replace It —

Another is a large rock or boulder in the bed of the large Auglaize river, south of the mouth of Blue Creek one half mile south of Charloe. The little boy on the rock is Joe Stouffer and his dog.

Prior to the Miami and Erie canal, farmers would use flat bottom boats in the spring, during high water on the river, would float their produce and grain to market at Fort Defiance. As history goes, a man by the name of Ben Bowman was on his way to Fort Defiance with a load of supplies had difficulty steering his heavy laden boat in the current. He ran into the submerged rock, and tipped over his boat losing his grain and produce, besides giving his passengers a good soaking.

A man by the name of Everrett A. Budd immortalized this boulder by writing a poem "Romance of Bowman Rock."

This rock was moved from the Auglaize river bed and placed in the Boat Basin Park at Oakwood, Ohio, where it lays to-day.



— Boy On Rock —

— Old Picture Of Forney's Home And Store —

INDIAN BURIAL GROUND

Last but not least our thoughts are turned to the Indian Burial ground. Just north of the Indian Village was their cemetery, many mounds beneath whose sod sleeps the dust of their braves, are yet plainly visible.

Silver brooches, tomahawks, pipes and other Indian trinkets have from time to time been exhumed from these Indian graves.

Time changes every thing. In the beginning of 1930's cabins were built among the tall trees on this burial ground, attracting many tourists seeking rest and quiet during the summer months on this scenic mound so close to the river.

Other pictures on these pages are new homes of Charloe built in the early 1960's. The streets and highway display a new birth of civilization, including the CHARLOE COMMUNITY PARK.

— Cabins In The Tall Trees —

— View Of Cabins —

— Looking South Through Charloe —

— Built By John Hudson, Later Used By John Ayers, Now Owned By The Hutchinson Family —

— Charloe Store In 1962 —

— CHARLOE COMMUNITY PARK —

A VILLAGE BY A STREAM

In the library of my memory,
Is a book that to me is dear.
It's pages growing dimmer,
With the passing of each year.

There's a legend in that volume,
Of a village by a stream--
Ruled by a stalky Indian Chieftain,
Charloe Peter was his name.

Charloe ruled his band of redmen,
With a firm but gentle hand.
And the Spirits sent a blessing,
Of contentment on his band.

Many Moons in peace they hunted,
Trailed the panther to his lair.
Stalked the wily roebuck,
Won engagements with the bear.

He surveyed the mighty forest,
His kingdom knew no bound.
Abundant fruits and game and fishes,
On his domain could be found.

Then one day into his wigwam,
From the rising of the Sun--
Strode a paleface--smiling, flattering,
Their destruction was begun.

For this kindly simple Chieftain,
Tho the Spirits did not tell.
Twas an omen, twas a signal,
Twas the ringing of their knell.

Charloe stood beside his wigwam,
Gazing at the rising sun.
His heart was growing heavy,
His troubles had begun,

As he gazed across the water,
On this bright but cheerless morn.
His eye beheld the beauty,
Of his field of waving corn.

As he viewed the golden tassels,
His bosom swelled with pride.
It was planted by his Indians,
It was cared for by his tribe.

In his mind there flew a vision,
Of the snowy days to come.
Of campfires burning brightly,
And a feast on yellow pone.

Then his gaze is shifted yonder,
From whence the water came.
And he spies a hugh old boulder,
The one Ben Bowman named.

He sees it very plainly,
This hugh and greyish rock.
Many times he's sat upon it,
With bow, and quiver filled with darts.

And before him comes a picture,
Of many many moons ago.
On this rock were naked children,
Shooting fishes with the bow.

He turned his back upon the stream,
And gazed beyond the dale.
The Indian pathway that led out,
Is today the Charloe Trail.

For many moons the stars had shone,
Above the forest's floor.
On which the Chieftain and his tribe,
Was doomed to hunt no more.

For the echoes of the children,
As they pursued their forest friends.
The sound of braves at wargames,
Would never ring again.

Yet once again this noble Chieftain,
Wise in all the forest's ways.
Points a finger down the stream,
Where their dead in peace are laid.

He can see the mounds in numbers,
Each one marks a shallow grave.
Their Spirits are contented,
In the land of those who gave.

Many friends have passed before him,
Many members of his band.
Their Spirits are rejoicing,
In their happy hunting land.

With his face turned to the heavens,
Calling Spirits far and near.
Asking of them the protection,
Of those that were so dear.

And for keeping ever safely,
For their leaving would be soon.
Then he left them in the keeping,
Of the stars the Sun the Moon.

Charloe's eyes were filled with moisture,
At the thought that they must part.
His proud head dropped in silence,
As a tear drop struck his heart.

In this trance he saw a vision,
Of a heavily wooded stream.
It's waters teemed with fishes,
It's shores abound with game.

He saw the lights of many campfires,
Drifting in from by past lore.
Heard the chanting of the Indians,
As they danced along the shore.

Heard the mirth of many children,
Down beside the waters edge.
Saw a papoose gently swaying,
In a little willow bed.

Heard the hoot owl of the forest,
In the stilly of the night.
Heard the chirping of the songbird,
In the morning's early light.

Then the Spirits lead him up the stream,
To where the shallows ripple.
Twas there he met a dark haired maid,
And in Indian style he wooed her.

Amidst the song of countless frogs,
They sat in the moonlight's glimmer.
Their hearts with rapture beat the time,
To the music of the river.

Beneath the light of a silvery moon,
Betwixt the laughing ripples.
Their savage hearts by love entwined,
Sang the chorus with the riffles.

Then he shook with consternation,
For the vision was but a dream.
Of the happy moons behind him,
When his life was as the Spring.

Then he turned into his wigwam,
With a sad and aching heart.
For with his forest, with his waters,
On the morrow they must part.

Peter's heart bled out with sorrow,
As he sat upon the floor--
Of his wigwam, in his Village,
That on the morrow was his no more.

For the smiling flattering paleface,
With neither heart nor pride--
Had taken stream and forest,
With a simple little bribe.

Charloe Peter is gone forever,
But his name it lingers still.
Guarded by the Spirits,
Of those sleeping on the hill.

The lore is deeply rooted,
By those that have heard and seen.
Of that little Indian Village,
On a bluff beside a stream.

By WAYNE MEAD

And dedicated to the Village of Charloe

———o———

CHARLOE PARK DEDICATION COMMITTEE

Wayne Mead, Chairman, Springport, Michigan

Forest Sherman, R.R. Oakwood
Clark Mead, Oakwood
Raymond Noffsinger, R.R. Oakwood
Charles Goyings, R.R. Oakwood
Carson Eakins, Oakwood

Co-workers:

Miss Mildred Shisler, Librarian, Box 126, Oakwood
Otto E. Ehrhart, Photographer, Antwerp

Typists:

Miss Carolyn Aldred, Miss Jane Stouffer, Mrs. Ann Freshwater
Mrs. Alice Stouffer, Co-chairman, R.R. 1 Charloe Trail, Paulding

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